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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : American Embassy, Tripoli

301
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

March 5, 1956
DATE

REF : Embdesp. 198, December 7, 1955

67 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION WEA-4	DEPT. RMA-2, OLI-6, E-4, U/MSA-1, RE-2
	REC'D 3/13	OTHER ICA-5, OSD-4, IR-3, Army-4, NAVY-3

SUBJECT: Eighth Meeting of Libyan-American Reconstruction Commission

JOINT EMBASSY/USOM MESSAGE

The Embassy/USOM transmit as Enclosure No. 1 six copies of the minutes of the eighth meeting of the Libyan-American Reconstruction Commission (LARC) together with six copies of an appendix to the minutes concerning proposed program additions and changes and LARC action on these proposals.

The eighth meeting included three sessions on November 1, 15, and 19. The long hiatus between the first and second sessions was caused by Salem el Qadi's inability to understand why the Libyan-American Joint Public Health Service should need employees, his desire to "study the papers," and his departure on November 2 for Rome as head of the Libyan delegation to the FAO conference there. There was a possibility that Qadi's obstinacy was caused not by his unwillingness to see any LARC funds used to hire personnel but because some members of the Council of Ministers (principally the Minister of Health) had decided that the Joint Services were an American maneuver to control the expenditure of Libyan funds. By November 15th, the Minister of Health had been persuaded to reaffirm his previous request that the Public Health Joint Service be the action agency for LARC's health projects, and Qadi also had seen the light. However, in overcoming Qadi's objections it was necessary to agree that the health projects would subsequently be referred one by one to LARC for approval. Inasmuch as the projects had already been approved by LARC, this merely added to the delays about which the Prime Minister and other Libyan officials have since complained so strongly.

The mine clearance problem came up again in discussions on the Federal Roads projects (see explanation in Appendix 1). Work on the surveying of the Fezzan Road, in particular, has been long delayed because of the danger from uncleared World War II mines. LPDSA's attempts to organize mine clearance teams were suspended while the Tripolitanian Administration and the Federal Government were making up their minds as to what they can or will do about a mine clearance concession given to a private company by the Tripolitanian Administration in 1954. While the concession is in effect, the provincial and federal authorities are unable to do anything about known mines except to notify the concessionaire and wait for him to take care of them. The concessionaire's operations apparently consist of removing only the easily recoverable mines, leaving the remainder in an even more dangerous state than they were in

FKLundy/lva
Enc. 1

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REVIEWED BY J.M.Raz DATE 1/May 6, 1985

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FROM :

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DATE

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the first place.

The compromise arrived at on the telecommunications project was reported in Embassy/USOM Despatch No. 198 of December 7, 1955.

The administrative question discussed at the end of the November 15th session (see paragraph 113 of the minutes) was concerned with the official confirmation of the appointment of Omar Yacoub, ex-Nazir of Agriculture, Cyrenaica, to the post of Deputy Executive Director of LARC. The confirmation was unanimous.

The remainder of the projects discussed at the eighth meeting are self-explanatory.

David G. Nes
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

(Cleared in draft by MJGordon)

cc: Benghazi
USOM

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MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE LIBYAN-AMERICAN RECONSTRUCTION COMMISSION HELD ON NOVEMBER 1, 15, 19, 1955

PRESENT

Chairman - Essayed Ali Sahli - Minister of Finance

Members - Essayed Salem el Qadi - Minister of National Economy
Essayed Omar Yagoub - Nazir of Agriculture, Cyrenaica
Mr. Marcus J. Gordon - Director USOM/Libya
Mr. Frederic K. Lundy - Economic Officer, American Embassy

Absent Essayed Fouad Kabazi

Office of Executive Director - Mr. Erwin C. Hannum - Executive Director
Mr. Wm. S. Coupe - Management Engineer
Mr. A.R. Dakkak - Translator
Mrs. Y. Cavalli - Secretary

Others - Mr. C. Pitt Hardacre - Finance & Economic Expert Government of Libya
Mr. Harry L. Spence - U.N.T.A.B.
Sir Arthur Dean - L.P.D. & S.A.
Dr. H. Spence - U.S.O.M./L.
Mr. M. Galli - U.S.O.M./L.
Mr. Cederstrom - U.S.O.M./L.
Mr. C.P. Bradburne - Secretary, Economic Planning Committee
Mr. H.E. Caustin - U.N.T.A.B.

1. Essayed Sahli called the meeting to order and asked if there were any comments on the Minutes of the previous meeting.

2. No comments. These were approved.

Comments by Chairman

3. Essayed Sahli I have nothing to say to the Commission except that we are going to move. We have found as you know another building for the Commission and I suppose that this is the last meeting that we will hold here. With effect from the next meeting we shall be sitting in the new building.

Libyan-American Joint Public Health Service

4. Essayed Sahli Mr. Gordon will tell us what he has to say on this matter.

5. Mr. Gordon Some months ago L.A.R.C. Earmarked and Allotted funds for a number of projects in Public Health and Sanitation and designated the Action Agency as the Ministry of Health with the assistance of L.A.T.A.S. or U.S.O.M. The Executive Director has been given a memorandum jointly signed by the Minister of Health and myself requesting that the Commission make the Action Agency the Public Health Joint Services and I thought it would be worth taking some of your time to explain the organisation and progress they have made so far for the expenditure of these funds. We have transferred about 1/2 a million dollars worth of equipment from L.A.T.A.S. to the Public Health Joint Services, and we have assigned 12 American Personnel. There are four additional specialists recruited

bilities have been divided. We meet weekly with the Minister and Director of Health to discuss problems and all employment actions are jointly made under Libyan salary scale for both locals and foreigners. Everything is moving very well. The Mareth Barracks are being turned over to the Libyan Government and will be used to house this Joint Service and will also include the Regional Joint Services for Tripolitania. There will also be room for a Nurses Training Center and, if possible, a midwifery School. We might later have a proposal for L.A.R.C. to finance the refurnishing and reconditioning of this area. This other chart shows that Prof.Foellmer and Dr. Spence have broken down the amounts of money that will be required by each Province. Each of these figures is backed up by other statements. They propose here a co-mingling of the LARC funds with the funds provided by Point 4 into a single fund for each project which is partly financed by LARC funds. For these projects, the monthly fiscal reports will show the total project, and not only that part which is financed by L.A.R.C.

6. Essayed el Qadi Are you using some of the L.A.R.C. funds to pay personnel?

7. Mr. Gordon Yes

8. Essayed Sahli Is that allowed in L.A.R.C.?

9. Mr. Hannum Yes. We have included personnel which is necessary to carry foward a development program. It has been done on a somewhat limited basis. For the Federal Roads, for example, where there is not adequate staff, it has been considered as economic development to build up that staff to carry forward the work.

10. Mr. Lundy This additional staff as far as LARC is concerned will only be temporary?

11. Mr. Hannum For planning and getting it under way. Otherwise it becomes operations and maintenance costs.

12. Mr. Gordon The expenditure on staff is about £L.80,000 in a total program of about £L.500,000. Moreover, about a fourth of this personnel cost will be borne by the Joint Service out of its regular resources, rather than by LARC. In addition, the services of all the American specialists furnished by USOM, and of their Libyan counterparts, and of regular Joint Service personnel are all being made available to help plan and carry out the LARC projects - at no cost to L.A.R.C. But there are additional personnel costs, or labor costs, involved in these L.A.R.C. Health Projects which cannot be met by the Joint Service. We have no source of funds other than L.A.R.C. from which to pay these additional personnel costs.

13. Essayed el Qadi I think it would be advisable to reconsider this question of using LARC's funds to meet personal salaries. I think before proposing a certain project for execution we must first consider if we have qualified personnel in the Federal Government or in the Government Agencies, Point Four, United Nations, L.P.D. & S.A. or any other agencies, who could be able to supervise the project and so we can dispense with the employment of additional personnel from LARC funds, which funds have been provided for economic projects, when we have such employees available in the Government and above Agencies, thus waste L.A.R.C.'s funds unnecessarily.

14. Mr. Gordon Every development project involves personnel costs and whenever you contract for a job a big percentage of that is personnel cost.

15. Sir Arthur Dean Personnel can be divided into two groups:- Personnel employed on the execution of the project and personnel subsequently necessary to operate and run whatever facilities are set up. The first are legitimate expenses to execute the project. The second are strictly a matter for the Government in their domestic budget. Perhaps if that point is made clear to His Excellency he will accept the plan now proposed.

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16. Essayed el Qadi I wish to point out that it is in the policy of L.A.R.C. to select existing agencies and make them as the Action Agencies for the L.A.R.C. projects in order to avoid the employment of additional personnel.

17. Mr. Gordon I think there is a misunderstanding. Personnel in existing organisations are being used to supervise and run the projects, but for each project there is bound to be some additional personnel costs. Even if projects are being contracted out, there is bound to be some personnel costs involved even though they do not appear as such.

18. Essayed Sahli I do not think there is any material difference of opinion between Mr. Gordon and Salem Boy. Salem Boy thinks that we ought not to spend any money for planning, etc. but we should use existing staff if possible and each project should be dealt on its merits.

19. Mr. Gordon The action before the Commission is to make the Joint Services the Action Agency for the Health projects instead of the Ministry of Health and L.A.T.A.S.

20. Essayed Sahli Will that not be put forward independently as a specific action to the Commission?

21. Mr. Hannum I think it may be appropriate at this stage to consider designating the Joint Services as the Action Agency, and I think it would be appropriate to do the same with the other projects where Joint Services have been created. I would like to comment, however, on the implications which would arise from this. I believe this would be an appropriate time to discuss this prior to the Commission taking action. - He explained the working of the Joint Services and said that funds of various sources would go into a single fund to carry forward a project. The reporting on expenditures would be made against the major items such as personnel, material, equipment, etc., but not against the source of funds - L.A.R.C., Ministry, U.S.C.M. or other. The project agreement that will go before L.A.R.C. will show the total cost of the project of which only part will come from L.A.R.C. Also the reports will be against the whole amount and not only on the amount provided by L.A.R.C. L.A.R.C. will look to the Joint Services as the managing Action Agency and will retain the same kind of inspection and review as for the other projects. If L.A.R.C. is not satisfied with the way the program is going it will say so and take action. Each of these projects will have to come up to the Commission as a total program rather than just for the amount supplied by L.A.R.C.

22. Essayed Sahli Now that we have covered this field and have given this subject due consideration, I wonder if each project should be dealt with separately or should be dealt with now?

23. Mr. Hannum I think that on the Health projects it would be appropriate to designate the Public Health Joint Service as the Action Agency as our projects fall within their program. It is the understanding that the projects will later be submitted on a project by project basis. I would recommend that the Commission accept this in connection with the Health Projects.

24. Essayed el Qadi Do you think a postponement will cause any difficulties?

25. Mr. Gordon We have no money to proceed with the projects at the moment which would result in a waste of time.

26. Mr. Lundy The requested action is merely an action of words because the Commission has already decided that the Ministry of Health and Point Four will be the Action Agency and what is now required is to change this into "Joint Services".

27. Mr. Gordon The important problem here is how the money will flow. As it stands now if money were sent to the Ministry of Health it would run through the regular Government Accounting procedure and the money which we are paying in will be administered separately. If the money comes in the name of the Joint Service it will be handled by our Joint Service Controller and the procedures for handling and accounting for it in all ases will be approved by the Ministry of Finance.

28. Mr. Pitt Hardacre said he had to leave the meeting but wanted to bring up a point before leaving. Referring to Tripoli Power Station he said L.A.R.C. is providing one million pounds. Due to certain circumstances it cannot provide any more. The Committee which has been set up for the study of the Tripoli Power Plant is now recommending to the Council of Ministers to make enquiries regarding the method of financing the balance that is required which is approximately £2½ million. A formal request has been made to the British Government for an interest-free loan for this amount. I have had a reply. Due to certain circumstances the British Government is short of money. It cannot help us at all this year. It might help us next year. But the need is imperative now, the first two generators are needed immediately. I made an informal approach to the Import and Export Bank in Washington as to whether a formal request for a loan would receive sympathetic consideration. I have had a reply from one of the Directors, whom I know personally, to the effect that it would be inadvisable to make such a request. That means that we will not get a loan from this part. Private financing is very difficult too. This is just to report that my attempts to finance the balance have not been successful. I have called a meeting of the Special Committee for Thursday and we will do our recommendation to the Council of Ministers. This is a matter of extreme urgency. This Commission will be informed of the Council of Minister's decision. I have put the picture in the blackest light, that is, as it is. I hope for assistance either from the British or the United States. If they do not help we will have to get it from elsewhere.

29. Essayed Sahli All we can say is that we have taken note of what you have said and we will see how things turn out when the Committee meets and the Council of Ministers discuss the question.

30. Mr. Pitt Hardacre The reason for the urgency is that the Consulting Engineers have given us the assurance that we have an outside limit of two years, for part rehabilitation of worn out generators. After that the Power Station will collapse.

31. Essayed Sahli To return to the Libyan-American Joint Public Health Service, in view of the fact that my colleague Salem Bey wishes to study the papers submitted before making a decision, I propose that we hold another meeting in ten days' time, on the return of Salem Bey from Italy. We may then take a decision. We may now proceed with the next item on the Agenda if it does not take too long.

Program Additions and Changes (Appendix 1)

32. Mr. Hannum read the report as submitted.

Telecommunications Project

33. Mr. Hannum We feel that this program is well in hand and will be under way very shortly in accordance with the decisions taken at the last meeting. One new item is proposed here that was not in the program previously. This is the Tripoli Telephone Exchange. It is recommended that £L. 170,000 be made available for the improvement of this.

34. It was recommended and agreed that this item be left for discussion at the next session.

Federal Roads

35. Mr. Hannum read the recommendations. The question of Land Mines was brought up.

36. Sir Arthur Dean explained that they had met with some difficulty due to a concession held by a private firm giving exclusive control over removal of mines.

37. Essayed el Qadi Are these Mines in Tripolitania or in the Fezzan?

38. Mr. Hannum They are mostly in Tripolitania. Our understanding is that the concession has been given a year ago by the Tripolitania Administration.

39. Essayed el Qadi asked whether anything had been done about the Agricultural Heavy Equipment.

40. Mr. Pitt Hardacre I believe it went to the Agricultural Technical Subcommittee but there was no report from them to the Technical Committee.

41. Mr. Hannum They made their report but there were no recommendations. This was going to be put through the Exceptional Budget.

42. Essayed el Qadi As far as I remember the subject was to be referred to the Technical Subcommittee and they were to make consultations with both the Ministry of National Economy and the Nazirate of Agriculture of the provinces. That was a long time ago and nobody has got in touch with the Ministry of National Economy or Nazirate yet.

43. Essayed Sahli Perhaps the best thing to do now is to ask the Subcommittee to hurry this up and submit it to the Commission at its next meeting.

44. Mr. Pitt Hardacre I would like to revert to the Fezzan Road and Mine Clearance. I wonder whether the Commission would instruct the Public Works Subcommittee to see to what extent this will hold up the program and see if action should be taken by the Council of Ministers.

45. Mr. Hannum This delay in Mine Clearance also affects the Water Spreading projects in areas which surveys should be carried out and where there are Land Mines.

46. Essayed Sahli We will ask the Public Works Subcommittee to deal with the matter and make a report.

47. This was agreed.

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Wadi Megenin

48. Mr. Hannum read the recommendation on this subject and said that these £L.7,000 would be an allotment out of the £L. 120,000 earmarked. £L. 20,000 had already been allotted for clearing the existing channel.

49. Essayed el Qadi What do you require this money for? Does not the L.P.D. & S.A. have the staff for this?

50. Mr. Hannum They do not have the staff for these specialized studies. It calls for a special technical survey.

51. Sir Arthur Dean We have been employing the same survey team for our own project on the Wadi Megenin. Now this particular section is being taken up by L.A.R.C. and it is proposed that this should proceed in the same fashion.

52. Mr. Hannum This is in accordance with the previously approved program for the Wadi Megenin . It is merely making money available to go ahead with the plans.

53. Essayed el Qadi This should be explained in more details.

54. Sir Arthur Dean This work will take about four to five months.

55. Essayed el Qadi What is the Natural Resources staff doing. It is their job to prepare such plans.

56. Mr. Hannum But they do not have the staff and facilities for the preparation of a project of this sort. It is an additional load on the staff.

57. Essayed el Qadi I do not know whether the Natural Resources have sufficient staff but since they are Technical Assistance they should provide funds for the necessary staff to carry out such a study and then L.A.R.C. funds will be used entirely for the execution of the project and not for personnel. As you see the Chairman has now left, one of the other members is also absent, what about leaving the discussion of this item for the next session which will be held in ten days' time.

58. Mr. Hannum I would say that action should be taken to allot this money now so that work may be started.

59. Sir Arthur Dean If action is not taken as soon as possible the survey may not be finished by March, which is the time scheduled to start work.

60. Essayed el Qadi I prefer to have all the members of the Commission present.

It was agreed to adjourn the meeting to Tuesday November 15, 1955 at 10 a.m.

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Second Session
November 15, 1955

Present:-

Chairman - Essayed Ali Sahli

Members - Essayed Salem el Qadi
Essayed Fouad Kabazi
Mr. Marcus J. Gordon
Mr. Frederic K. Lundy

Absent - Essayed Omar Yagoub

Office of Executive Director - Mr. Erwin C. Hannum
Mr. Wm. S. Coupe
Mr. A.R. Dakkak
Mr. Khader Mansur
Mrs. Y.Cavalli

Others - Mr. C. Pitt Hardacre
Mr. Floyd Larson
Mr. H.E. Caustin
Mr. C.P. Bradburne

60. Essayed Sahli We shall now resume the discussion on the Libyan-American Joint Public Health Service. The question was discussed at length last time and I think we adjourned this question in order that my colleague, the Minister of National Economy could give it more thought.

61. Essayed el Qadi I did not agree the last time because I did not know exactly what the question was. I thought it was a question of salaries to be paid out of L.A.R.C. funds and I opposed this because I think we should not pay except the most essential salaries out of L.A.R.C. funds.

62. Mr. Gordon After the meeting I had a meeting with the Minister of Health and told him that as far as we were concerned we will help the Ministry and the Nazirate of Health. If they would not rather have the Joint Services acting as Action Agency that was alright with us. We went over the whole plan together and the Minister then told me that he wanted to talk with the Prime Minister and then he drafted another letter which will be coming from the Minister of Health requesting that L.A.R.C. make the Joint Services as the Action Agency. In other words he has repeated the request to L.A.R.C.

63. Mr. Pitt Hardacre The money would go to the Ministry of Finance in a suspense account against the actual project.

64. Essayed el Qadi What is requested now is to change the designation of the Action Agency to read Libyan-American Joint Public Health Service?

65. Essayed Sahli Will the specific program to be executed be submitted to the Commission one by one for discussion or not?

66. Mr. Hannum They should be submitted project by project to L.A.R.C. After a few of these have been approved the pattern will be established. I would propose in the meantime, because the projects have already been approved, that the money be made available through this procedure right away for the purchase of equipment that is necessary, but I certainly feel that the project agreements should come through L.A.R.C.

think it would be desirable to have the L.A.R.C. signature as well as the Minister's and my own. I would like to make two comments on the question of personnel for His Excellency's information. One is regarding the salaries paid to the employees of the Joint Services. The salaries of all the non-Americans are being reviewed and will be set up by the Office of Establishments of the Government. We are conforming with the Libyan Government salary scales both for locals and imported. We have asked them to review every one and they have reviewed most of the salaries. We do have some dating back to previous years which are out of line and cannot adjust them immediately. The second point concerns the labor component. It will not be as large as in many L.A.R.C. projects such as the Roads projects, Water Spreading, etc. In Health the personnel component is 10 to 12 per cent and L.A.R.C. has the advantage of the Joint Services personnel to devote almost all their time to these projects.

68. Essayed Sahli May we then say that we agree to the request of the Minister of Health that the Joint Public Health Services be the Action Agency for L.A.R.C. projects, provided that it is understood that the projects one by one will be submitted for the approval of the Commission.

69. This was agreed.

70. Mr. Hannum We shall look forward to the requests for the designation of the other Joint Services.

Program Additions and Changes

71. Mr. Hannum said that there had been some changes since the report had been distributed at the last session. He was now submitting a new one.

Public Works - Telecommunications project

72. Mr. Hannum read the recommendations on this subject. (APPENDIX 1).

73. Essayed Kabazi queried point 1. b) wherein it is said that the Benghazi/El Agheila land line does not carry sufficient traffic to warrant an immediate improvement, and that it was recommended that no expenditure should be incurred on this section at the present time.

74. Mr. Pitt Hardacre As far as I can see the recommendation is based entirely on the following words "does not carry sufficient traffic to warrant an immediate improvement" I think that the question of sufficient traffic is entirely secondary because of the administrative requirements. It is the quality of the traffic which is important. It may be many many years before that traffic in terms of revenue, pays for itself. The Council of Ministers have come to this decision purely because of the Administrative requirements. I do not think we can yet decide on the necessity or not of improvement by the money obtained. I cannot see how our Chairman and Vice-Chairman can go to the Council of Ministers and put forward this proposal.

75. Mr. Lundy As I understand the proposal here the improvement of the Land Line from Benghazi to El Agheila is not ruled out but merely postponed for the purpose of scheduling the work. The experts believe that for the present the existing lines are adequate to satisfy the administrative need which enables us to concentrate first on the portions which are immediately necessary such as the Misurata/Tripoli stretch and also the connecting link between Tripoli and Benghazi. The question of the Benghazi/El Agheila land line will then be taken up in the proper order and it will then be decided on the basis of appropriate investigation whether there is need for a land line or whether it is better to put in radio communication. I think it would not be wise to insist in altering the decision on this technical question.

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of pressure to finance re-equipment and extension of the Arts and Crafts

76. Essayed Sahli There are two points. If the suggestion is that we postpone the Benghazi/El Agheila stretch and that we may go back to this, this may prove uneconomical to have these land lines in two stages because it would be far better to have these made by the same contractor. If we have the Tripoli/Misurata first and the El Agheila/ Benghazi after it would cost more. The second point is this, that the report itself does not say categorically that the present land line between Benghazi/El Agheila is in good order and is excellent. We do not have this assurance.

77. Mr. Lundy It does not say so, but it does say that it is adequate for present traffic.

78. Essayed Kabazi Not to the required standard of communications.

79. Mr. Gordon In your opinion Mr. Chairman would the Council of Ministers be receptive to this kind of recommendation:- Since it now appears probable that some other solution for that section other than land line would be far more economical, L.A.R.C. now proposes that that be postponed pending completion of this telecommunication study and the fund which we have for this to be used for the Tripoli Exchange which has become critical. This is a new element which had not previously been proposed.

80. Essayed Sahli You mean that we should leave the Benghazi/El Agheila stretch altogether?

81. Mr. Gordon Until completion of this study because it seems now advisable to do so.

82. Essayed Sahli If we get the assurance from the experts that the construction of the Land Line between Benghazi/El Agheila is not required at the moment. Is that backed up by substantial evidence? They do not say this.

83. Mr. Hannum They have said so in their presentation. I generally brief down the Sub-committees' reports but this is the language of the Sub-committee:-

> "The land line section from Benghazi to El Agheila, however, does not carry traffic which warrants any immediate improvement, and it is not recommended that any expenditure should be incurred on this section. For the present traffic the existing lines are adequate. If subsequent investigation shows that additional facilities are required, this would best be done by some more economical method than reconditioning and improving the land line. Furthermore, during the past 2 months it has become apparent that the utilization of the VHF "Scatter" technique has moved from the sphere of "possibility" to that of "probability" as the answer to the problem of the link between Tripoli and Benghazi. Therefore, the immediate re-construction of the land line between Misurata and Benghazi, or any section thereof, is ruled out as not economically justified at this stage. This means that the Benghazi - El Agheila section should be left as it is."

84. Essayed Kabazi I would put forward a proposal. Why not submit the whole scheme to the Ministry of Communications, and as they are responsible ask them to submit it to the Council of Ministers if they agree to this new proposal.

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85. Mr. Pitt Hardacre I would suggest that Mr. Kabazi's proposal be adopted and that this be referred to the Ministry of Communications for their views.

86. Essayed el Qadi I think this is a sound policy to follow. But I am really surprised that this question is again brought into discussion. It is my understanding that we have approved a certain project and have earmarked £L. 125,000. We have asked the Ministry of Communications to go ahead with the works of construction. Now again the whole thing is brought before us for review. We know that the Libyan Government is interested in having works started as soon as possible.

87. It was agreed to accept Mr. Kabazi's proposal.

88. Mr. Hannum One other point on this. In view of this and the earlier discussion about the earmarking and allotments, could we take action to approve the allotment of £L. 300,000 that has been earmarked in order to go ahead with the Tripoli Exchange and agree that an item of £L. 170,000 will go into our request for additional development assistance funds from the U.S.A. That would permit us to go ahead on the Tripoli Exchange now.

89. Mr. Pitt Hardacre I would like to add this that if there is no possibility of spending the money which is included in the Domestic Budget for the Benghazi Exchange then the Ministry of Communications must be told that they must revote for the unexpended balance otherwise this money is lost.

90. Mr. Pitt Hardacre Then the Tripoli Exchange is to be considered an item to justify for our request for additional economic aid.

91. Mr. Hannum and we will probably have more for Telecommunications whatever the survey comes up with.

92. Essayed el Qadi On the Permanent Communications Tripoli/Benghazi I see that we need £L. 30,000 to cover the expenses of the survey to be carried out by an American Firm? Had the total cost been 3 or 4 million pounds it would justify the expenditure but on a project that does not exceed £L. 300,000 I believe it is too much, especially when we remember that we have technicians available in the Ministry of Communications and other International organizations and in the two Nazirates of Communications.

93. Mr. Hannum We considered this as a safe amount to proceed with but it can probably be done with less.

94. Mr. Pitt Hardacre We have not got technicians who have sufficient knowledge. We have to get consultants. In England there is a normal scale of fees as well as any other country. It is a question of competitive quotation. We certainly have not the technical experts and must go outside as for the Benghazi Harbor, etc.

95. Essayed Sahli Could this be done by World Tender and whatever the price will be we will know then that it is the least?

96. Mr. Pitt Hardacre In such a highly specialized field not all firms are knowledgeable. It seems that there are five firms who are well experienced in this.

97. Mr. Gordon Why was it specified "Five U.S. firms"?

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98. Mr. Hannum Because they are more experienced in the development of this system. It will be competitive amongst people capable of carrying it out. Another comment is that there is no figure in here yet on what the overall cost of the Telecommunications project is going to be. Out of this will come the scatter system between Tripoli and Benghazi and all the rest of the network in Libya that will be considered for the continuation of the lines across North Africa. So there is no price known at this time but it will be a substantial figure.

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99. Mr. Gordon I would like to bring one point in on the first two subjects here, the Federal Roads and the Telecommunications. You will note there is mention of two experts Mr. Scott Killgore and Mr. A. Van Dyke from the International Cooperation Administration in Washington. Our Washington Office has consultants, some on full time, and some as needed. We were able to get these two men at different times for a short period to make a report to the appropriate sub-committees. They are both highly qualified and have worked in various countries. I would like to raise to the Commission the question of whether in the future the Commission would leave it to the Executive Director to request such help if he feels it is desired or whether it should be done only on Commission request. In these two cases it was made on the basis from a request by the Executive Director.

100. Mr. Pitt Hardacre There are no financial implications whatsoever but I do know that this is a system employed by I.C.A. I would like to suggest that it be left to the Executive Director to take advantage of it. If it has to be referred to the Commission we might in the meantime lost the opportunity of making use of the services of these experts as they become available.

101. Essayed el Qadi If it does not cos. anything we approve. If it costs money then we want it to pass through the Commission.

102. It was agreed that such decisions be left to the Executive Director.

Roads

103. Mr. Hannum We discussed the Federal Roads item before so we shall move to the next item, unless there are comments.

104. Essayed el Qadi I would like to ask one question. Why is the Subcommittee recommending that the South Road should be reconstructed as a macadamised road without a black top?

105. Mr. Pitt Hardacre I understand that the Subcommittee have discussed this project at length at which a representative from the Ministry of Communications was present. World experience has proved that this gives a very economical and good road surface in many cases.

106. Essayed el Qadi If this does not prove to be satisfactory, could the road then be coated with bitumen?

107. Essayed Sahli What is the opinion of the engineer on this proposal? Does he think that it will not entail any further expense if it is now constructed according to the proposal and it is then found unsatisfactory, and so coated with bitumen? What does Mr. Coupe think?

108. Mr. Coupe This will not entail any extra expenditure. My opinion is that this is a very sound proposal. The Development Agency and the Ministry of Communication are also in agreement with this.

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108. Mr. Coupe This will not entail any extra expenditure. My opinion is that this is a very sound proposal. The Development Agency and the Ministry of Communication are also in agreement with this.

108a Mr. Hannum I would like to assure the Commission that the Road people who have reviewed this and talked about it have been fully aware of the various needs for roads, and that roads are the basic communications for the country, and it is important that they be good roads and can carry the traffic that will be using them. Also that they can be maintained at reasonable cost. About this South Road although it may sound like a dirt road it does not mean that it is an inadequate road in any sense.

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109. Essayed Sahli Since this is the view of the Engineers and the Ministry of Communications, I think the best thing is to approve this and later on if it is found out that this is not the best thing then we have already been reassured that we can resort to Salem Bey's proposal to have the road coated with bitumen.

Mine Clearance

110. Mr. Pitt Hardacre During the last meeting we discussed the question of Mine Clearance. What is the position now?

111. Essayed Kabazi A meeting took place in the Tripolitania Department of Interior to discuss this subject at the request of the Chairman of the P.W. Sub-committee and the situation is that there were two proposals put forward 1) To transfer this responsibility from the Administration of Tripolitania to a Federal responsibility and so have a Mine Clearance Team for the whole of Libya. 2) To compel the firm to carry out the work properly and immediately by giving them final warning after which they will either give it to a more suitable firm or just wait for the final outcome of this Federal Mine Clearance Team. This meeting was held last week. They have given the final warning to the firm and they will probably cancel the contract.

112. Essayed el Qadi The best thing is to ask Essayed Kabazi to press the question further with the Province and give us some news at the next session.

113. Essayed Sahli I think it is getting a bit late. I suggest that we meet to-morrow afternoon. I think we can finish in one hour. We now have an administrative question to discuss within the Commission members.

114. Essayed el Qadi I want to ask the Technical Committee about the Heavy Agricultural Equipment question again which I raised at the other meeting. I just want to remind you of that.

115. Mr. Gordon Mr. Larson is the Acting Chief of our Agricultural work. Perhaps Mr. Larson you could tell us something about this to-morrow afternoon.

116. Mr. Pitt Hardacre Mr. Summerwar, the expert on this question, has submitted his report and is now being translated into Arabic. I am sure it will give a comprehensive view of this whole question to His Excellency.

The meeting adjourned to Saturday November 19, 1955

Third Session
November 19, 1955

Present:-

Chairman	-	Essayed Ali Sahli
Members	-	Essayed Salem el Qadi Essayed Fouad Kabazi Mr. Marcus J. Gordon Mr. Frederic K. Lundy
		Absent - Essayed Omar Yagoub
Office of Executive Director	-	Mr. Erwin C. Hannum Mr. Wm. S. Coupe Mr. A.R. Dakkak Mr. Khader Mansour Mrs. Y. Cavalli
Others	-	Mr. C. Pitt Hardacre Mr. H.E. Caustin Mr. Floyd Larson Mr. Don Davis Mr. C. Blackett

117. Essayed Sahli I want to tell the Commission what has happened at the Council of Ministers about the Telecommunications project. We discussed this in the light of the fresh report submitted by the L.A.R.C. Technical Committee. The change is that the Land Line between El Agheila and Benghazi was not thought to be urgent and the Committee recommended that, because there was not sufficient load on the line, we should leave it and use the money on the improvement of the Central Exchanges of Tripoli and Benghazi. After discussion this Commission decided to refer this to the Ministry of Communications to have their views, as they are responsible because the question was approved by the Council of Ministers and was referred to the Ministry of Communications for execution. When this new question arose we thought it would be advisable to refer the matter to the Ministry of Communications since they are responsible. The other day the Ministry of Communications reported to the Council of Ministers and outlined its views on the question. Mr. Blackett and Mr. Pitt Hardacre were present and after a long discussion the views of the Minister of Communications were accepted and the Council decided again to accept what the L.A.R.C. Technical Committee had proposed; which is, since there is not enough load on the line between Benghazi/El Agheila there is no need to reconstruct this at present, and the view of both the experts and the Ministry of Communications and the Council of Ministers was to use the money, to reconstruct the land line east of Benghazi. This sum which was earlier proposed to be spent on the Benghazi/El Agheila stretch would be used for the reconstruction of as much as possible of the line East of Benghazi, since the area East of Benghazi is much more populated and busy. This is justified especially as it would be of use in our future schemes for the International link between the Western and Eastern sides of Libya when the scatter system, if it is proved to be the best, is installed. We, therefore, unanimously agreed that this sum should be used for the stretches East of Benghazi. We shall now start immediately the study of the possibility of introducing the scatter system between Benghazi and Tripoli for which there is a time limit of six months. If after this period the scatter system is not proved to be the best system then we go back to the Land Line. The Ministry of Communications has also been instructed to start immediately a survey on the stretch east of Benghazi.

118. Mr. Blackett The point at issue is whether the scatter system would also serve Benghazi to Torbuk or Capuzzo. That being the case it will only be necessary then to reconstruct the communications from Benghazi to El Marj, and from Tobruk to Derna which would again avoid a very long Land Line construction. It might be a little premature to go ahead on the Land Line because certainly if the scatter system does prove to be good it would be much less expensive than reconstructing the Land Line.

119. Essayed Sahli It is up to you to decide. The decision of the Council of Ministers was not definite as to which stretch should be done. They left it to you to decide and see where it is necessary, for immediate local requirements, east of Benghazi. Even if it is decided to use the scatter all the way there is still the need to reconstruct a portion of the line east of Benghazi for the international link. We do not know how much of this land line must be reconstructed. This will depend on the report of the experts. What we are concerned about is that there is a portion of the land line to be reconstructed on that part. We sincerely hope this will be the final decision.

120. The program was agreed on.

121. Mr. Pitt Hardacre What about the Tripoli Exchange? What is holding this up?

122. Mr. Blackett We are making close studies. The main trouble is the new building for this.

123. Essayed Kabazi What about shifting the Tripoli Exchange to another area altogether.

124. Mr. Blackett This would be much more complicated, and would mean longer lines, and, therefore, more expensive.

125. Essayed Kabazi What about exploiting the area in front of the present location?

126. Mr. Blackett That is the place we have in mind. It is the Trade Union Club which is the main difficulty.

127. Essayed Sahli We could have a meeting together and try to find another accommodation.

128. Mr. Blackett If they agree to move we will demolish half of the building and we could probably get the new telephone exchange within 12 to 15 months.

129. Essayed Sahli Have you submitted your plans to L.A.R.C.?

130. Mr. Blackett Not yet. As regards the Benghazi Exchange, I think we should standardise the equipment for the whole country. There is a 2000 line exchange already manufactured but the manufacturers have not told us the price. If it is agreed to go ahead with the work, then there will be no delay and there is a possibility of doing something pretty quickly at Benghazi.

131. Mr. Gordon Is that the capacity required at Benghazi?

132. Mr. Blackett We had thought of 1000 lines with an extension to 1500 lines, which would meet three years requirements, but if there is a 2000 line already available then there would be no harm in accepting this.

amount of discharge, suitability of water for various purposes, and such other relevant data as may be obtained. Wells will be written up on a schedule form, assigned a number according to a programmed system

Roads

133. Essayed Sahli I think we now have covered this question. We can now proceed with the Fezzan Road, Essayed Kabazi had something to say about the Mine Clearance.

134. Essayed Kabazi I contacted the Nazir of Interior and he said that they could not prepare all the documents for submission to the Executive Council last Tuesday, so he said he might talk about it next Tuesday the 22nd and he will let us know what is the outcome. The only thing for them to do is to ask the Federal Government whether they are prepared to take over this commitment or not. So I am afraid I hav not very useful news about the clearance of Mines.

135. Essayed el Qadi I would suggest that the L.P.D. & S.A. be charged with the task of pressing the province and by next meeting the L.P.D. & S.A. will report to the Commission about the following:-

1) Whether any progress has been made with the Province.
2) If no progress has been made what is the recommendation of the Agency to tackle this problem?

136. Mr. Hannum Don't you want it to be the L.A.R.C. Public Works Technical Subcommittee?

137. Essayed Sahli Yes, I think it should be the L.A.R.C. Public Works Technical Subcommittee.

138. Mr. Pitt Hardacre There is one additional consideration on which I believe the Tripolitanian Administration should take a decision. That is, in the event it is not up to them to tackle this problem, whether the Ministry of National Defense is ready to undertake this work and, if so, we should make money available to the Ministry of Defense.

139. Essayed Sahli Yes, the Public Works Subcommittee should take all these steps and report to us at the next L.A.R.C. meeting.

140. Mr. Hannum read the recommendations submitted for the Federal Coast Roads.

141. Mr. Pitt Hardacre I think it is very sound to get the whole thing completed rather than piece-meal.

142. Mr. Hannum Everybody dealing with it feels that this is a good sound program.

143. Mr. Lundy Is the Ministry of Communications in full support of this program.

144. Mr. Hannum As I pointed out before, this program was discussed with the Ministry of Communications. At that meeting Mr. Toulon, Mr. Van Dyke, Mr. Coupe and myself were present and all agreed to this.

145. Essayed el Qadi There are many bridges which are really in bad shape and need immediate reconstruction. Their reconstruction does not require technical consultation because everything is obvious and have undergone studies before, and plans are already there. We need not delay the reconstruction of these. I think it is good for the Commission to see that some immediate action is being done on such bridges. Other bridges which need technical study we can delay, but for those that do not require any study let us go ahead with them. For example the Torghot bridge near Gasr Garabulli can be easily carried out by the Nazarat of Public Works and does not need highly skilled labor; the Mashrak Valley, Nofaliya, the Jarub Valley, the Green Valley in Cyrenaica and similar vallies which I do not remember. I kindly ask the responsible engineer to cooperate with the relative Nazirates for the construction of these bridges at the earliest possible time in order to facilitate traffic and avoid damage.

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IT IS RECOMMENDED that the Afforestation project for which $1,80,000

146. Mr. Hannum The bridges designs were reviewed and for the most part it was felt that there was ability to deal with them almost immediately. There are, of course, one or two bridges which require some study, such as the Wadi Caam. I do not know whether the Nazarate of Public Works can do something about this but the Ministry of Communications with the Nazarate can see to this between them.

147. Essayed Sahli Therefore we can say that these small bridges can be reconstructed immediately through the Ministry of Communications, whether in conjunction with the Nazarate of Public Works or not, it is up to them, and only big bridges will be delayed until highly skilled advice is obtained.

Domestic Water Supply - Tobruk

148. Essayed Sahli We can now proceed to the next point Domestic Water Supply, Tobruk.

149. Mr. Hannum This is merely a reporting item.

150. Essayed el Qadi This project is vital for the City, I fully agree to it, for no City can live and develop without fresh water and this reminds me of the similar project for Misurata which most of the present members know about. I hope nobody will think that I am regional, as this project was discussed three years ago, and was scheduled in the five years development project and nothing has been done so far.

151. Mr. Larson I agree with His Excellency about the need of Misurata and I see no reason why we cannot undertake such a project.

152. Mr. Pitt Hardacre I agree with His Excellency. Three years ago something had to be done about Misurata but we had no money. Now Mr. Larson says that something can be done. It is most important.

153. Mr. Larson We first need to make thorough investigations and see if there is any salt water contamination.

154. Mr. Hannum Should not the Subcommittee be asked to come up with a proposal to determine a source and then have a plan for distribution?

155. This was agreed.

156. Mr. Hannum For the item Electricity - Cyrenaica, the Public Works Technical Subcommittee felt that while improvement is going on in the electrical system in Cyrenaica, this is something that ought to be considered on a revenue producing basis and, therefore, recommend that it go to the Special Projects Subcommittee to deal with prior to giving any further engineering review.

157. Mr. Pitt Hardacre The L.A.R.C. Special Projects Subcommittee, of which I am Chairman, is studying this and will be submitting a report.

Wadi Megenin

158. Mr. Hannum We discussed this at the earlier session. The recommendation is that £L. 7,000 be allotted out of the £120,000 earmarked to proceed on the planning and the surveys. There are two parts one for the consulting firm, and the other to have survey work going on in the field. We shall be using the same consulting firm as that used by the L.P.D. & S.A.

159. This was agreed.

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Natural Resources

Ground Water Investigations and Test Wells

160. Mr. Hannum went through the recommendations.

161. Mr. Gordon I think this program, all three sections, are probably as important as anything that needs to be done in Libya. It has even occurred to me that perhaps it would have been wiser for Point Four instead of concentrating on schools, teachers training, livestock improvement, etc. to have 75 specialists working in water exploration. We now have two men working in that field and are under terrific pressure, and more work is certainly needed.

162. Essayed el Qadi I agree in principle with everything that Mr. Gordon has pointed out. Now if the Commission would like to discuss these three points in details then I have some comments to make. He pointed out the need for cisterns to collect rain water for livestock. He said the reason why the sheep in Cyrenaica were better than in Tripolitania was because they had such cisterns.

163. Mr. Gordon There are separate projects for cisterns but these specific projects deal with ground water.

164. Mr. Pitt Hardacre There are other projects in the Exceptional Budget and in the L.P.D. & S.A.

165. Essayed Sahli Is there any substantial sum of money allotted in the Exceptional Budget.

166. Mr. Pitt Hardacre A very large sum, something about £L. 70,000.

167. Essayed Sahli I think the best thing would be to let our Subcommittee study the question and see whether the provision in the Exceptional Budget is adequate or not and report to the Commission on this question.

168. Essayed Kabazi There is a full report about these cisterns and their location in the L.P.D. & S.A. together with the repairs that have been carried out.

169. It was agreed to Allot £L.7,000 for Shallow Wells for Domestic and Livestock Use.

170. Mr. Larson Part of the £L. 7,000 which you have just approved was set up to buy three available small cable tool rigs at Wheelus Field. They sent us a letter yesterday and have called us to-day asking us if we are going to buy this equipment and I was wondering if you might authorize someone, without waiting for the Project Leader to be named in this case, to purchase that equipment out of the £L. 7,000, so that we can do it right away.

171. Mr. Hannum No special action is required by the Commission.

172. Essayed Sahli Who is the Action Agency?

173. Mr. Hannum It is the Public Works Department in Cyrenaica, and the Nazirates of Agriculture in Tripolitania and the Fezzan.

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Deep Irrigation Wells

174. Mr. Hannum read the recommendations and said that this entailed the allotment of £L. 7,500. The three parts of this project require reprogramming of funds as indicated.

175. Essayed el Qadi What sort of equipment will be required for this project?

176. Mr. Hannum Jeep Station Wagons, Pick-ups, Turbine pumps, Power Unit, Casings, flow meter and a deep well calipre.

177. Essayed el Qadi Why are the L.A.T.A.S. vehicles not used? These should be sufficient.

178. Mr. Gordon We still have half of our vehicles out of use because of the Locust Campaign. Very often we have some of our most expensive men tied up because of lack of transportation. We are going to make the best use of our vehicles and sell those which are out of use and give the proceeds to the Joint Services; but right now they are not in very good shape. We had a tremendous number of vehicles broken down in that Locust Campaign. I now have a written request from Mr. Sicely to turn over our vehicles for another Locust Campaign.

179. Mr. Pitt Hardacre I have asked to leave the meeting but before doing so I would like to bring up one point. It is about this question of Famine Relief. This question is liable to become chronic for sometime. We must take steps to face sudden emergency relief and in order to do so it is necessary to have sufficient Silos. We have in our provision money for the investigation report on Silos and Food Processing and I would ask that this be proceeded with as soon as possible as we may be in a mess in the future if we happen to have a draught year. It is merely a question of the Commission noting the urgency of proceeding with this investigation immediately. The money has already been allotted.

180. Mr. Hannum As the money has been allotted it does not require further Commission action. Discussions have been held recently with the L.P.D. & S.A. which is the Action Agency to start work on this project.

181. Essayed Sahli Could we then say that although the question does not need a decision of the Commission, that we approve that this subject be taken up immediately.

182. This was agreed.

183. Essayed el Qadi returning on the question of vehicles for the Deep Irrigation Wells, I see that for every project we need vehicles. Out of £L. 7,500 to be allotted for this project we intend spending £L.3,200 for vehicles. This is much to much in comparison to the total cost. I prefer that we concentrate on the repair of the Point 4 vehicles rather than purchase new ones.

184. Mr. Larson I would say that our point in presenting this proposal to get this new equipment at this time was that while we have this Wheelus Field equipment which was purchased under the L.A.R.C. financing, and which will last only for a certain limited time, that it would be good if we could slowly replace it with other equipment in a sort of organized manner. Otherwise all the Wheelus equipment will be having a big item of replacement. However, if you wish to delete those items we could do so for this year and we could present a request some time later.

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185. Mr. Gordon Some of this Wheelus equipment will only run for a while.

186. Mr. Hannum We are reviewing the total transportation situation and all of the equipment. We are very much concerned about this whole matter and the need of getting maximum utilization of transportation and its availability for use. In this particular case the project would be useless without transportation. We are dealing with large areas to be covered and we assure you that both the subcommittees and our office are reviewing the whole question.

187. Essayed Sahli You said Mr. Larson that you could carry on with the Wheelus Field equipment for some time. What about reducing this to the barest minimum taking into consideration that you have this Wheelus Field equipment and see if the need arises for more in the future. We could say for instance that instead of two Jeep Station Wagons you have only one and instead of two Jeep Pick-ups you have one. In other words we delete two and keep two. That would reduce the allotment by £1600.

188. This was agreed. It was agreed to Allot £6,000 for this project.

189. Essayed Sahli I think we can allot an additional sum at any time if you find yourself in difficulty.

Ground Water Investigation

190. Essayed el Qadi commented on the statement pointing out to the lack of basic information. He said that while he was Nazir of Agriculture he remembered having seen some reports made during the Italian Government.

191. Mr. Larson said he believed the geologists were in possession of most of this information but he would look into the matter more closely.

192. It was agreed to Allot £L. 3,000 for this project.

193. It was also agreed to adopt Mr. Hannum's recommendation regarding the reprogramming of funds for these three projects.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Improvement and Expansion of Horticultural Nurseries - Cyrenaica

194. It was agreed that the Afforestation project for which £L. 80,000 has been Earmarked and £L. 40,000 has been Allotted, be reprogrammed to £L. 74,000 Earmarked and no change in Allotment. The £L. 6,000 reprogrammed would be available for transfer to the above project.

Area Development

195. Mr. Hannum went through the recommendation.

196. Mr. Gordon In order to reduce the expense could you not send two in India and two in Porto Rico and then have them return together and so reduce the expense?

197. Mr. Hannum I do not know the answer to that. I was not at the meetings, but I know the Committee went through this extensively, and considered that both programs were excellent.

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198. Essayed el Qadi I am afraid this sum is going to be spent on travelling and actually short-term training projects are not something acceptable to the Libyan policy. They do not believe in short-term training. As these two countries are so far away they would be spending most of their time travelling.

199. Mr. Gordon I think the best thing to do is to send two to Puerto Rico and two to India. This would automatically double the time in each country. These people are well organised and are accustomed to taking trainees from other countries. I am sure they will get all the training they need to get.

200. Essayed Sahli My proposal would be that we double the two months to four months in India and four months in Puerto Rico.

201. Mr. Gordon It depends on how their courses are organised.

202. Essayed Sahli Then let us adopt your proposal to send two to Puerto Rico and two to India. We leave the amount as it is because if necessary they may stay another week. Whatever is necessary. In any case the transportation costs would be less but the living expenses would be the same.

203. This was agreed.

Health and Education

Technical Education Project - Sidi Mesri Agricultural Training School

204. Mr. Hannum I have a different presentation to make to you from the one that is before you. Since writing this recommendation and submitting it to the Commission I have had a discussion with Mr. Bishti, President of the Executive Council, Tripolitania, and with the Nazir of Education, Tripolitania concerning this matter. The owners of the property for the Sidi Mesri School are now asking £L. 11,600 for this land. They propose that this money be turned over to the Arts and Crafts School for its operation, some reconstruction and some equipment. If L.A.R.C. agrees to such a project the present owners will transfer the title of Sidi Mesri property to the Nazir of Education, Tripolitania, for continued use of the Agricultural Training School. I have not had time to write this up and get it to the Commission, but I am bringing it to your attention on the basis that the details are now being worked out. The Nazir of Education, Tripolitania and Mr. Ritchie of U.S.O.M., a member of the L.A.R.C. Health and Education Technical Sub-committee, can now proceed to see about the working out of a project which would be acceptable to L.A.R.C. on equipment and construction basis for the Arts and Crafts School. I was given the assurance that the property owners would accept this kind of proposition. I wanted to report this to you and state that we are proceeding to see whether this could be worked out. My proposal is that it be undertaken if it is a kind of project that L.A.R.C. can accept as a regular project. It is a public institution, as they explained, operating under a Board of which the Nazir of Education is Head and they get funds from the province. No decision is required at this time other than general approval to proceed on this basis. The Sidi Mesri project is an important one to get under way in the economic development program. It has been held up because title must be clear before spending L.A.R.C. money to build new structures, but L.A.R.C. funds are not to be used to buy land.

205. Mr. Gordon I wish the Commission could at least approve of this plan subject to review of details, for two reasons. One is that we have spent a great deal on the Agricultural School at Sidi Mesri, and the Provincial Administration has also spent a great deal of money. The school is completely blocked because they do not have enough space and we should either close it down, and this we do not feel we should do, or invest more money. A decision should be reached soon so that we know where we stand. My second point is that Point Four is getting a certain amount

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of pressure to finance re-equipment and extension of the Arts and Crafts School. Now as the Awkaf Society are willing to transfer title of the land at Sidi Mosri provided we pay £L. 11,600 directly to the Arts and Crafts School, then as far as I am concerned the two problems are solved.

206. Essayed el Qadi We all agree

207. It was agreed that the Executive Director should proceed as proposed.

Statistical Equipment

208. It was agreed that the Domestic Water (Rural) project, for which £85,000 has been Earmarked and Allotted this fiscal year, be reprogrammed at £77,000 Earmarked and Allotted this fiscal year. The £8,000 reprogrammed to be transferred to the Statistical Equipment project.

Development of University of Libya

209. Mr. Hannum This is merely a reporting item. The Health and Education Subcommittee have had a full discussion on this but no action is necessary at this time inasmuch as no proposal has been submitted to L.A.R.C.

210. Essayed Sahli Did you get in touch with the Ministry of Education to see if they have any plans to be submitted to the Subcommittee.

211. Mr. Hannum There is an official from the Ministry of Education on the Subcommittee but he has not submitted any proposal.

212. Essayed Sahli I should think it would be good to have Dr. Abou Hadid as a member of that subcommittee.

213. This was agreed.

214. Essayed Sahli When do you propose that we meet?

215. It was agreed to hold the Nineth Meeting of the Commission on the 11th January 1956, unless there is an urgent matter which requires an earlier meeting.

216. A vote of thanks was made by all present to Mr. Dakkak, Translator, who had resigned from L.A.R.C.

LIBYAN-AMERICAN RECONSTRUCTION COMMISSION

PROPOSED PROGRAM ADDITIONS AND CHANGES
AND COMMISSION ACTION

Work has started on twenty projects that have been approved in the L.A.R.C. Program. Others are getting under way and will be in activity over the coming weeks. Considerations of programs by the Technical Sub-committees and the Technical Committee have brought to a more complete plan and schedule stage some of the large public works projects and provided refinements in previously considered activities. The Recommendations of the Technical Committee include reporting on firm programs now with specific steps to be taken and recommendations for allotment of funds previously earmarked as well as recommendations for earmarking and allotting money for new projects.

PUBLIC WORKS

Telecommunications

In accordance with previous decisions of the Commission, the program and schedule for this activity has been prepared. Mr. H. Scott Killgore, telecommunications advisor to the International Cooperation Agency, Washington, D.C., was in Libya from October 8 to 19. He has been of great assistance in working with the persons concerned with this program. As a result the program previously agreed on is proceeding and one additional phase is recommended here for inclusion in the program, namely, the improvement of the Tripoli telephone exchange.

The telecommunications program and schedule is:-

1. Land Lines

a) The reconstruction of the land line from Tripoli to Misurata at an estimated cost of £L. 125,000 is to proceed as soon as the plans and specifications now being prepared are reviewed and approved, and contracts are awarded.

b) The land line from Benghazi to El Agheila, however, does not carry sufficient traffic to warrant an immediate improvement, and it is recommended that no expenditure should be incurred on this section now. For the present traffic the existing lines are adequate. If subsequent investigation shows that additional facilities are required, this would best be done by some more economical method than reconditioning and improving the land line. Furthermore, during the past 2 months it has become apparent that the utilization of the VHF "Scatter" technique has moved from the sphere of "possibility" to that of "probability" as the answer to the problem of the link between Tripoli and Benghazi. Therefore, the immediate reconstruction of the land line between Misurata and Benghazi, or any section thereof, is ruled out as not economically justified at this stage. For these two reasons the Benghazi - El Agheila section should be left as it is. The £L.125,000 that would be required to reconstruct this line is more urgently needed for other activities in the economic development of Libya.

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2. High Frequency Radio-Telephone between Tripoli and Benghazi.
Specifications are being prepared for a new more powerful transmitter and receiver equipment for Tripoli and Benghazi. Bids can be called within the next two months for purchase and installation. A re-location of the transmitting and receiving antennae will be essential. This will, for the next two - three years, give a much improved communication. It is estimated that £L. 11,000 will cover this item including operation, maintenance and training of local staff.

3. Permanent Communications Tripoli - Benghazi. Telecommunications Study. A contract will be made with one of five specialized United States consulting firms to analyze the problems of direct communication between Tripoli and Benghazi, and recommend the most suitable permanent method of establishing a link which also will be of service in the international telecommunications network, as well as the internal system. The "Scatter" system, which is the most modern, will be thoroughly investigated along with other possible systems. It will also report on other telecommunications problems in Libya, including service with the Fezzan, and on economical solutions of them. Competitive tenders among the five firms selected will be requested for this investigation, which it is anticipated will take not more than six months. The study will result in the submission of specifications ready to call for tenders for the recommended system. In addition to recommending and estimating the cost of equipment, the survey will also cover the needs for maintenance, training of local staff, and operation. Also an economic survey of the financial results that are likely to be obtained.
Although the planning is to be undertaken by a selected United States firm, the bids for the purchase of the equipment recommended will be on an international basis. The installation of this new equipment will make available for use elsewhere in Libya the new High Frequency equipment that is to be purchased immediately for improving the service between Tripoli and Benghazi. It is estimated that £L. 30,000 will cover the cost of this study. At this stage, until the report of the consultants is received, no figure can be given for the ultimate cost of the installation.
Item 1 a), 2 and 3 are under way.

An equally important part of the telecommunications project that requires attention is the improvement of the exchanges in Tripoli and in Benghazi. They have not been included in this L.A.R.C. project previously. Because of their importance in the improvement of telecommunications in Libya, they are now recommended for attention:-

Tripoli Telephone Exchange The existing Ericsson exchange should be reconditioned or replaced, and expanded immediately. It is thought that the cost of reconditioning and expansion by Ericsson will be substantially less than putting in a total new exchange. The Company is being asked to submit a bid for reconditioning with an extension for 2,000 additional subscribers. At the same time selected other companies are being asked to quote for a similar complete new exchange.

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Communication are also in agreement with this.

A new building, with an equipment room which will be dust proof and air conditioned, will be necessary.

Budgetary position: The Budget of the Government of Libya contains a provision of £L. 20,000 for a new building. Reconditioning or replacement and expansion will require a provision of up to £L. 170,000.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that £L. 170,000 be Earmarked and Allotted for the reconditioning or replacement of the present Tripoli Exchange and expanding to the proposed size.

Benghazi Telephone Exchange This should be reconditioned and brought up-to-date. Prices will be called for as for the Tripoli Exchange.

Budgetary position: For this item £L. 30,000 is provided in the Budget of the Government of Libya. It is estimated that this will be sufficient, therefore, no L.A.R.C. funds are required.

Federal Roads

Federal Roads have been reviewed for reprogramming and scheduling. A report has been made by Mr. Van Dyke, Road Expert, made available to L.A.R.C. by the International Cooperation Agency, Washington, D.C. The Public Works Technical Subcommittee is of the opinion that in principle this report can be accepted. It is recommended as follows:-

1. The Coast Road should be given a bitumen seal coat immediately throughout its length from Tunisia to Egypt in order to hold the road structure as it is at present. This is a valuable asset, but it is wasting fast. It must be retained by immediate stabilization with a seal coat. This program is based on the fact that the Coast Road is an expensive structure built to much higher standards than the traffic justifies. However, having such an asset, it should be maintained as well as economics will justify. An extensive maintenance program is in the major emphasis, therefor. The Coast Road will need complete resurfacing over a period of years. It will be scheduled for sections to be worked on annually after the seal coat is applied. Meanwhile, surveys for re-alignment and improvement of vertical and horizontal curves (lines of sight) should be put in hand through consultants, who will also prescribe the necessary plant. It is essential to have bye-asses for all bridges for exceptional loads. The bridges will be designed as recommended by the consultants. Immediate action is desirable on safety signs and centre lines of horizontal and vertical curves.

2. The South Road should be reconstructed as a macadamised road without a black top. This will be undertaken by 3 sets of comprehensive road construction equipment, one set of which will be subsequently allotted to the road for maintenance. Regular maintenance with this equipment is essential for a road of this type.

3. The Fezzan Road This is a scraper and drag operation to be done with two sets of equipment. Operations are unlikely to start before the fall of '56 as orders have to be placed for the necessary equipment. Meanwhile the present program of stage by stage improvement of the road in difficult lengths by hand labor, financed by the Development Agency, will continue.

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The above is based on following the existing alignment. Until the mines are cleared no survey for improvement of the existing alignment, nor of any alternative alignment, is possible. It has been brought to the attention of the Technical Committee that it has been impossible to start work on mine clearance due to a concession held by a private firm giving exclusive control over removal of mines. Until it is possible for the mines to be cleared out, Libya will be delayed on many projects.

For all the above the recruitment of a consulting engineer to advise on staff, utilization of equipment, training of personnel, and the road design in general is urgently necessary. It is proposed that a short list of United States consultants, known to have experience in Middle East countries, should be invited to quote. It is urgent that equipment be ordered immediately as delivery dates are long.

Budgetary position: This is a revision in the LARC program for which £L. 210,000 has been Earmarked and Allotted for this year, and £L.300,000 Earmarked for next year, which is sufficient to meet all the expenses contemplated in the program.

This revised program agreed to by the Commission, providing that the South Road (Item 2) will be treated with a black top surface if experience indicates it to be advisable.

Domestic Water Supply, Tobruk

Possibilities other than pumping from Derna which appear likely to be more economical are under investigation. A contract has been let with a consultant to analyse possibilities of water sources near Tobruk.

Electricity - Cyrenaica

The request for L.A.R.C. funds to finance additions to Cyrenaica power supply has been reviewed. The supply of electricity should be a matter of commercial development, and not a matter for a grant. It would appear that this should be put on a revenue producing basis, and the financing plan should be based on a loan rather than a grant from LARC. More details will be needed if L.A.R.C. is to give consideration to this project. The subject is referred to the L.A.R.C. Special Projects Technical Subcommittee.

This referral approved by the Commission.

It is noted that the L.P.D.&S.A. has been financing electric power facilities in Benghazi and the outlying stations in Cyrenaica, and has a continuing program for this.

Wadi Megenin

L.A.R.C. has arranged for engineering consultants to prepare a preliminary study for a diversion of the flood waters on the right bank below the Sidi Gelani Works. In addition it is necessary to have field survey work in order to plan and layout the project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that £L.7,000 be Allotted from the remaining £L.100,000 Earmarked for the Wadi Megenin project to be used for a preliminary study for diversion to the East and for a field survey for the waterspreading facilities in connection with such a diversion, including purchase of necessary equipment. The Action Agency for this East diversion is the Nazirate of Agricultur' Tripolitania.

Allotment of £L. 7,000 approved by the Commission.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Ground Water Investigations and Test Wells

It is recommended that the project previously identified as Test Wells-Underground Water, be enlarged to include additional ground water investigations as outlined below and the project be given the new title of Ground Water Investigations and Test Wells. New phases of the project recommended for inclusion are:-

1. Shallow Wells for Domestic and Livestock Use.

In many of the extensive semi-desert areas of Libya there are extremely few wells. Wells that exist are, in many instances, several days apart as travel is reckoned for nomadic groups. Obviously, under such conditions, grazing of many areas is difficult and energy losses in animals results in losses of weight. Further, the total supply of water is so limited that it is not even sufficient for semi-permanent homes or for small garden patches.

It is believed that shallow wells can be constructed in many places which will ameliorate the conditions sketched above. Therefore, a shallow well drilling project in the sparsely settled, semi-desert area is proposed.

The purpose of the project is two-fold; to acquire detailed information on the hydrologic characteristics of the wadis and in so doing, perhaps provide a minimum of water where none is now available.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that £L. 7,000 be Earmarked and Allotted for this activity as part of the Ground Water Investigation and Test Wells project.

Approved by the Commission.

2. Deep Irrigation Wells

A test well drilling program carried on by Department of Agriculture and Point Four during the past several years has been productive in locating and proving several new supplies of ground water sufficient for developing irrigation projects. These two agencies can continue to furnish drills and some personnel to continue this important project but it will be necessary to add some field transportation and equipment.

It is recommended that £L. 7,500 be Earmarked and Allotted for this activity as part of the Ground Water Investigations and Test Wells project.

Commission Approved Earmarking and Allotting £L. 6,000

3. Ground Water Investigations

Basic ground water data on hand concerning wells and springs in Libya is limited. Yet, for several reasons, exploratory and production drilling involving much equipment and expenditures of funds is being actively promoted in all three provinces in Libya. In view of the paucity of basic data on hand it may be that some of these activities will be found to have been predicated on wrong assumptions and may prove to have been ill advised. This situation should not continue.

The time of present staff is consumed in directing and advising on current action programs. To obtain the mass of basic data required as background information, extra personnel and field transportation and equipment must be provided, preferably assigned to that specific task alone.

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From a long range point of view, lack of basic data, and assimilation of these data, holds the ground water investigation on an emergency decision basis. Danger areas may remain undetected, desirable areas may not be recognized, and potentials as a whole will be poorly understood. Since the basic agricultural economy of Libya is based on the availability of water of suitable quality and quantity, it is considered imperative that basic data on the nation as a whole be assembled at an early date.

Geologists will examine wells in selected areas according to a systematic plan. They will obtain information on depths of wells, altitude, water level, quality of water, use, manner of discharge, amount of discharge, suitability of water for various purposes, and such other relevant data as may be obtained. Wells will be written up on a schedule form, assigned a number according to a prearranged system, and plotted on the best available map. Geologic mapping will be carried out as necessary.

In some fewer instances pumping tests of one sort or other may be made on individual wells. A very few wells will be designated as observation wells in order to follow changes in water level or quality of water from season to season and year to year.

The canvass of individual wells can probably be begun in the coastal belt of Tripoli and extend inland. Work in the Fezzan and Cyrenaica will follow shortly, depending on various factors but particularly on what is learned from projects about to be launched in the near future in both provinces.

To get this program under way during this fiscal year will require £L. 3,000.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that £L. 3,000 be Earmarked and Allotted for this activity as part of the Ground Water Investigations and Test Wells.

Approved by the Commission.

4. General

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the Water Spreading project, for which £L. 160,000 has been Earmarked this year, be reprogrammed reducing the amount of Earmarking to £L. 140,000 this year, with no change in Allotment at this time.

Approved by the Commission.

IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED that the Test Wells - Underground Water program, for which £L 36,000 has been Earmarked and Allotted for this year, be reprogrammed to include an additional £L. 20,000 for Earmarking this fiscal year, with no change in Allotment at this time.

Approved by the Commission.

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

Improvement and Expansion of Horticultural Nurseries - Cyrenaica

This is a new agriculture project that will provide the facilities for increasing the production of orchard trees on Government farms in Cyrenaica. On the basis of such improved production of trees it will be possible to improve and expand fruit production. The facilities will include primarily

amount of discharge, suitability of water for various purposes, and such other relevant data as may be obtained. Wells will be written up on a schedule form, assigned a number according to a prearranged system, and plotted on the best available map. Geologic mapping will be carried out as necessary.

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Approved by the Commission.

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IT IS RECOMMENDED that £L. 6,000 be Earmarked and Allotted for this activity. The Nazirate of Agriculture Cyrenaica will be the Action Agency.

Approved by the Commission.

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IT IS RECOMMENDED that the Afforestation project, for which £L.80,000 has been Earmarked and £L. 40,000 has been Allotted, be reprogrammed to £L.74,000 Earmarked and no change in Allotment. The £L. 6,000 reprogrammed would be available for transfer to the Horticultural Nurseries program.

Approved by the Commission.

Area Development

The Commission has Earmarked £L. 50,000 for an Area Development project, the outlines of which have been formulated and approval given to the designation of the Wadi Targalat and Wadi Beni Ulid. For this project £L. 8,000 was Allotted at the September meeting for initial waterspreading structures. In accordance with another action by the Commission, an Area Committee has been established under the chairmanship of the chairman of the L.A.R.C. Agriculture Technical Subcommittee. Membership includes representatives of the Tripolitania Nazirates of Agriculture, Interior, Education and Health, local officials from the Beni Ulid and Targalat areas, U.S.O.M. and F.A.O. This Area Development Committee has met twice. It has discussed the related matters of area development as they apply to the Wadi Caam project as well as the Wadi Targalat and Beni Ulid area. It recommends that £L. 4,000 be made available now to train four area development workers.

At present there is a lack of trained personnel in Linya who can perform the job of area development worker. If an area development program is to be developed whereby the people inhabiting a given area participate in programs and projects of improvement within that area, trained workers are necessary to stimulate the imagination, initiative and enthusiasm of the people within this area and to work with the people in utilizing these characteristics in carrying out improvement projects and programs.

Plan of Action: A sub-committee of the Area Development Committee will select four Libyan trainees based on criteria established by the Development Committee.

To provide as sound a basis as possible in a limited period of time, the following training program to run not less than three months is recommended:-

1. One month in India to study and observe an area development program in action under the supervision of United States Operations Mission Development Advise, Dr. Ernest E. Noal.

2. One month in Puerto Rico to study and observe Area education and aided self-help housing programs under the supervision of Area Educational Director, Dr. Fred G. Wales.

3. Approximately one month's training in Libya under the following tentative curriculum:-

   A. Government Organization, Operations and Services related to Area Development provided by:-

      1. Nazirate of Interior
      2. Nazirate of Agriculture
      3. Nazirate of Education
      4. Nazirate of Health
      5. Nazirate of Public Works
      6. LARC, LATAS, FAO and other Agencies.

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B. Basic Philosophy of Area Development.

C. Human Relationships - in Area Development.

D. Applicable Phases of Group Dynamics.

Cost of the phase of training outside Libya - Four Thousand (£L.4,000) Libyan Pounds including approximately One Thousand Five Hundred Fifty ($1550.00) Dollars.

Assignment of development workers upon completion of training:-

a. one to Wadi Caam
b. one to Wadi Targalat
c. one to Beni Ulid
d. one supervisor

IT IS RECOMMENDED that £L. 4,000 be Allotted out of the Area Development project for this training program.

The Commission Approved the Allotment of £L. 4,000 for this activity, but with the revision that 2 trainees would go to India only for two months and the other two trainees will go to Puerto Rico only for two months.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Statistical Equipment

The Ministry of National Economy has submitted a request for a project for the purchase of statistical equipment for the Central Statistical Office, amounting to £L.8,000.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that £L.8,000 be Earmarked and Allotted for this purpose. The Ministry of National Economy will be the Action Agency.

Approved by the Commission.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the Domestic Water (Rural) project, for which £L.85,000 has been Earmarked and Allotted this fiscal year, be reprogrammed at £L.77,000 Earmarked and Allotted this fiscal year. The £L.8,000 reprogrammed to be transferred to the Statistical Equipment project.

Approved by the Commission.

Development of University of Libya

The Health and Education Technical Subcommittee conducted a full discussion on the progress of developing a university for Libya but felt that no action or decision was necessary at this time as an official plan for the establishment of the University has not yet been given to the Subcommittee.

Erwin C. Hannum
Executive Director

Revised noting Commission Action
January 13, 1956.